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CONTACT: Mark D. Weinstein
Executive Director of Public Relations
[937-766-8800](tel:937-766-8800) (o)
[937-532-6885](tel:937-532-6885) (m)
Mweinstein@cedarville.edu
@cedarvilnews

Research Leads Engineering Student to Med School

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Most people do not associate engineering with health care, but for Cedarville University student Derek Renner, his mechanical engineering degree gave him a gateway to medical school.

Renner, a senior from St. Marys, West Virginia, recently learned he was admitted to West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

His journey to medical school began with an anatomy and physiology class, which he took as part of his biomedical engineering minor. Instead of just accumulating more credit hours, the courses sparked an interest in medicine. A mission trip to Swaziland through Cedarville's Global Outreach program cemented his newfound interest in medicine.

Renner is currently completing a yearlong senior design project researching spine implants by modeling human spines and completing tests using pig spine to improve implant designs. This project, according to Renner, has prepared him well for the rigorous medical school admissions process.

"I've really grown personally because of the work that was required with this kind of research and writing reports on it," said Renner. "Cedarville definitely pushed and prepared me for medical school because of the amount and difficulty of work that is required in the classroom."

In the future, Renner hopes to study orthopedics, and his engineering background will offer a heightened understanding and experience with prosthetics, artificial joints and numerous other areas related to biomedical technology.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.